JUNI TAISEN: ZODIAC WAR

- The Zodiac War is held every twelve years.
- Twelve fierce warriors take on the names of the Zodiac.
- The twelve warriors each possess unique superpowers.
- The sole victor will be granted any single wish.

The Fighter of the Snake

Tatsumi Brother, the Younger

Kills for Money

The Fighter of the Dragon

Tatsumi Brother, the Elder

Kills for Money

The Fighter of the Rabbit

Usagi

Kills with Destruction. Necromancist

The Fighter of the Tiger

Tora

Kills with Drunken Power

The Fighter of the Ox

Ushii

Just Kills

The Fighter of the Rat

Nezumi

Kills Inexorably

The Fighter of the Boar

Inōnoshishi

Tsuchiya Yōko

- *Kills in Abundance*
- *Making It Rain*

The Fighter of the Dog

Dotsuku

Mishio Yūkai

- *Kills in Blue*
- *Mad Dog's Rage*

The Fighter of the Chicken

Niwatori

Kyaku Ayaka

- *Kills by Pecks*
- *Eye of the Cormorant*

The Fighter of the Monkey

Sharyū

Kills in Peace

The Fighter of the Sheep

Hitsujii

Kills with Deception

The Fighter of the Horse

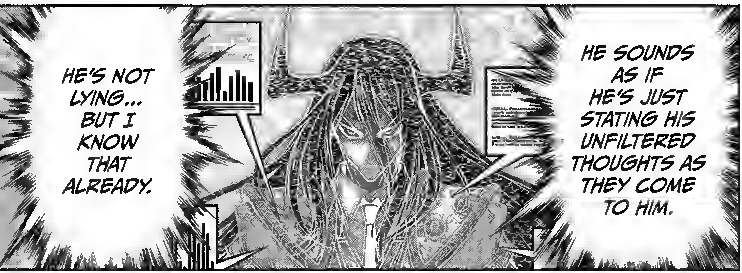
Uuma

Kills in Silence

I SUGGEST YOU RECONSIDER.
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF MOTIVATION THAT WILL MAKE YOU FIGHT WELL.
IT'S NOT WHAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.
I KNOW IT'S NOT!
THIS ISN'T THE SLIGHTEST, TINIEST BIT LIKE ME AT ALL.
EVER SINCE I WENT DOWN INTO THOSE SEWERS, SOMETHING'S BEEN WRONG WITH ME.
IS THAT ONE MAN ARMY DRUG...
...MESSING WITH MY HEAD?

BUT YOU? YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO NEEDS TO FIGHT FOR HERSELF.
THAT MIGHT BE RIGHT FOR SOMEONE ELSE, MAYBE.

...


HE'S NOT LYING... BUT I KNOW THAT ALREADY.
HE SOUNDS AS IF HE'S JUST STATING HIS UNFILTERED THOUGHTS AS THEY COME TO HIM.

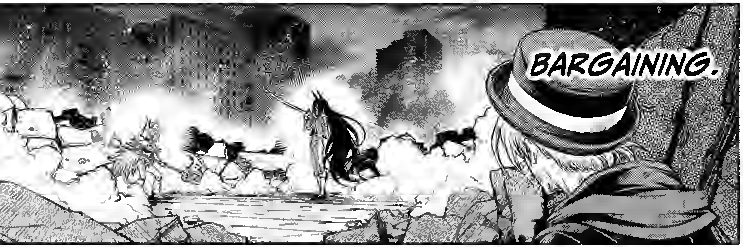
AND THAT'S WHY I NEED TO LOWER MY WEAPON AND ESCAPE WHILE I STILL CAN...
THAT'S HOW I'VE LIVED MY LIFE UNTIL NOW. THAT'S HOW I'VE SURVIVED.
BECAUSE EVERYTHING HE'S SAYING IS TRUE.

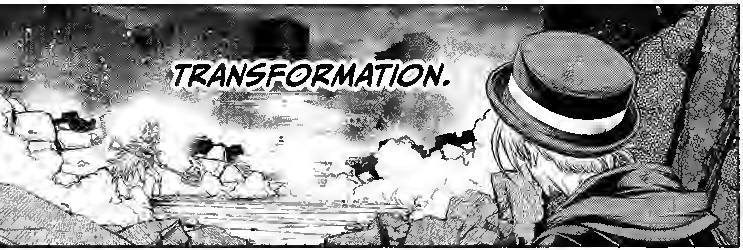
W-WHY AM I ANNOUNCING MYSELF...?

IS THIS THE FIRST TIME I'M GOING TO FIGHT BECAUSE I CHOOSE TO?

THUNK
WITH THAT DOPING, MY POWER IS MAXED OUT. I CAN DO—

SKILLS.
STRATEGY.
DECEPTION.
SPLAT!


BARGAINING.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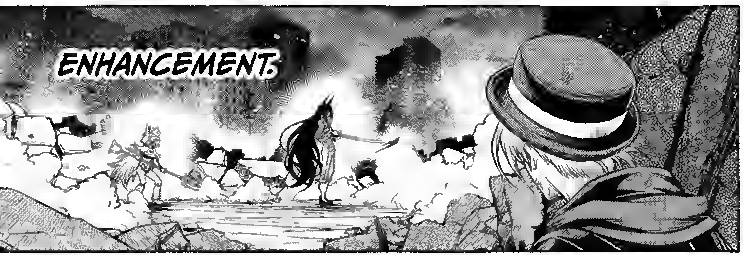
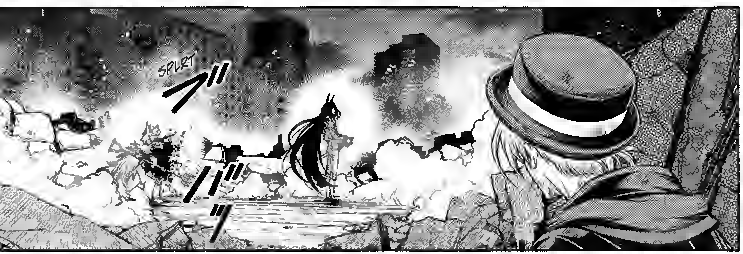
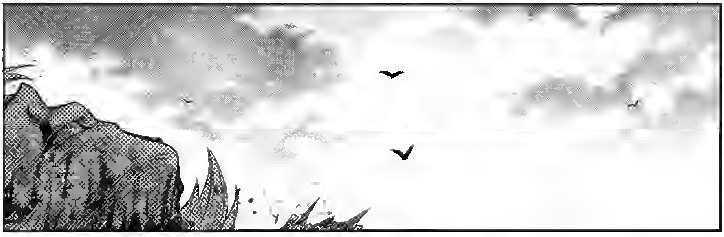

ENHANCEMENT.


SFUET

...BECAUSE HE IS A NATURAL-BORN SLAYER.
OX DOESN'T NEED TO RELY ON ANY OF THOSE THINGS...

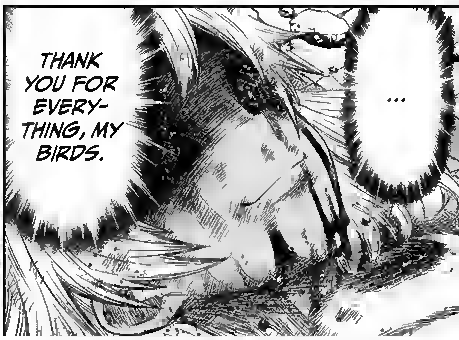
HE'S SO INCOMPRE-HENSIBLY POWERFUL.
HE'S ...
...
HFF
...
AH...
HFF
WELL ...
HFF
SO THIS IS ALL I COULD BE.
HFF
HFF
I GUESS, IF IT'S THIS WAY...
...I DIE A SOMEWHAT NOBLE DEATH.



KAW

KAW
KAW
KAW

COME, IF YOU'D LIKE...
YOU MUST BE GETTING HUNGRY AGAIN.
COME AND EAT YOUR FILL.


THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING, MY BIRDS.
...

OF ALL TWELVE FIGHTERS, HE IS THE MOST RE-NOWNED.
OF ALL TWELVE FIGHTERS, HE IS THE MOST FAMOUS.
JUNI TAISEN: ZODIAC WAR
Manga by
Akira Akatsuki

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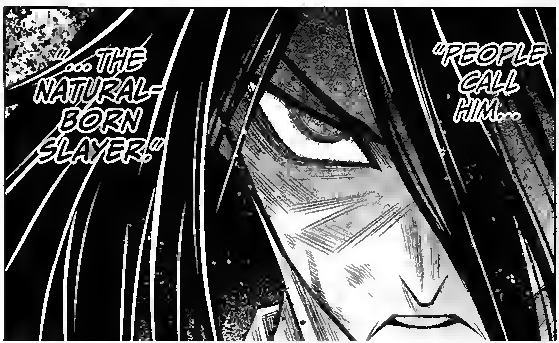
CHAPTER SIX
OX, CHICKEN

...A FIGHTER AMONG FIGHTERS.
HE IS OX...
I TOLD DOTSUKU-SAN I DON'T KNOW WHO OX IS.
HFF
BUT OF COURSE I KNOW
HFF
HOW COULD ANYONE NOT?
HFF

ANYONE WHOSE FEET HAS EVER TOUCHED A BATTLE-FIELD...
...WOULD KNOW WHO HE IS.
I ASKED YOU A QUESTION
ARE YOU ALONE?
BUT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS...
...JUST HOW STRONG HE TRULY IS.
BECAUSE EVERYONE WHO HAS FOUND OUT...
...IS ALREADY DEAD.
IF ANYONE ELSE IS WITH YOU...
...I'D LIKE YOU TO GO AHEAD AND BRING THEM OUT.
...

YOU SEE...
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME HOW MANY OF YOU THERE ARE.


"PEOPLE CALL HIM...
"... THE NATURAL-BORN SLAYER."

"NO ONE HAS EVER STOOD ON A BATTLE-FIELD AGAINST HIM...
"AND SURVIVED... TO TELL ABOUT IT

IS THE NEXT BATTLE ABOUT TO START—OX VERSUS CHICKEN?
HE'S ONLY DRAWN HIS SWORD, BUT IT FEELS LIKE A DECLARATION OF WAR!
!!
CHICKEN WENT TO GREAT LENGTHS TO BOOST HER ABILITIES TO THEIR ABSOLUTE LIMITS...
...BUT OX IS DIFFERENT. THE WAY HE CARRIES HIMSELF IS A DECLARATION—BOLD AND WITHOUT RESERVATION...
"I DON'T NEED TO HIDE OR CHANGE WHO I AM."
HE'S COVERED IN BLOOD ...
ハァ
ハァ
HF
HF

I-I THOUGHT ...
...YOU WERE A PACIFIST.
IF THE RUMORS ARE TRUE...
...WHOEVER THAT BLOOD BELONGS TO MUST BE DEAD, RIGHT?
NOW THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN SCAT-TERED...
...THERE'S NO POINT IN THAT ANYMORE.
I ONLY VOLUNTEERED TO JOIN HER BECAUSE I WAS LOOKING FOR A TEAM.
NO, I THINK THAT'S JUST MONKEY.
...
SHF
THAT PEACE TREATY IS DEAD IN THE WATER.

WHAT SHOULD I DO? WHAT SHOULD I DO?
ATTEMPTING TO FIGHT OX HEAD-ON LIKE THIS IS TOO RECKLESS TO EVEN CONSIDER...
I SHOULD TRICK HIM INTO TRUSTING ME AND STRIKE HIM FROM BEHIND...
BDMP
BDMP
...OR DISTRACT HIM WITH MY BIRDS AND MAKE MY ESCAPE.
GNK
ON THE OTHER HAND... WITH THE BOOST FROM THE ONE MAN ARMY, I'M AS STRONG AS I'LL EVER BE.
AND OX DOESN'T KNOW THAT.
IF I TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE, IT WON'T MATTER IF HE'S A NATURAL-BORN SLAYER OR NOT.

WAIT, WHAT MADE YOU BRING UP THE PEACE TREATY ALL OF A SUDDEN?
IS IT BECAUSE, PERHAPS...
...MONKEY IS SOME-WHERE NEARBY?
...
HE'S QUICK-WITTED TOO.
...
ALL RIGHT. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

!!
I'LL ACT LIKE I'M WEAK AND VULNERABLE, THEN ATTACK HIM FROM BEHIND...
?
?
W-WHAT AM I DOING?
WELL, WELL. I DIDN'T FIGURE YOU FOR THAT TYPE.
YOU MEAN TO FIGHT ME TO PROTECT MONKEY, IS THAT IT?
"IF YOU WANT TO PASS, YOU'LL HAVE TO DEFEAT ME FIRST," HUH?
...